

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of porting a directory number within a local telephone service area served by a distributed switch call manager (DSCM), comprising steps of:
 - a) selecting at least one of a media gateway (MG) and a line gateway (LG) through which to serve the directory number; and
 - b) re-provisioning the DSCM to address call control messages associated with the ported number to the at least one of the MG and the LG.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of re-provisioning comprises a step of a changing number translation table in the DSCM.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of changing a number translation table comprises a step of associating the ported number with a signaling path to the at least one of the MG and the LG.
4. A method of expanding an area for local number portability in which directory numbers, served by first and second distributed switch call managers (DSCMs) of a broadband transport network (BTN), are ported from the first to the second DSCM, comprising a step of establishing a signaling path through the BTN from the first DSCM to one of a media gateway (MG) and a line gateway (LG) located in an area served by the second DSCM, wherein the one of the MG

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and the LG is used to provide service to subscribers having directory numbers ported to the area served by the second DSCM.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a step of changing number translation tables in the first DSCM to associate the ported number with the one of the MG and the LG.
6. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one of the MG and the LG is enabled to exchange control messages with more than one DSCM.
7. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a step of provisioning the at least one of the MG and the LG to exchange control messages with more than one DSCM.
8. A method of porting a directory number of a telephone service subscriber whose directory number is served by a distributed switch call manager (DSCM) of a broadband transport network (BTN), comprising steps of:
 - a) provisioning a line gateway (LG) to exchange signaling messages with the DSCM;
 - b) provisioning a subscriber line between the LG and the subscriber's ported location; and
 - c) provisioning the DSCM to direct call control messaging associated with the subscriber's directory number to the LG.

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9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of provisioning the LG comprises steps of:
- a) establishing a signaling path through the BTN between the DSCM and the LG; and
 - b) provisioning the LG to send call control messages over the signaling path to the DSCM.
10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of provisioning the DSCM comprises a step of changing directory number translation tables in the DSCM so that directory numbers ported to the LG are associated with a signaling path through the BTN to the LG.
11. A method of porting a directory number and all service features associated with a telephone service subscriber whose directory number is served by a first distributed switch call manager (DSCM) of a broadband transport network (BTN) to a subscriber line in an area served by a second DSCM of the BTN, comprising steps of:
- a) provisioning a line interface (LI) at a service switching point to which the directory number is to be ported and connecting a subscriber line for the ported directory number to the line interface;
 - b) provisioning a signaling path from the first DSCM to the LI through a media gateway (MG) connected to the service switching point; and

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c) provisioning the first DSCM to use the signaling path for call control messaging associated with the directory number to be ported.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of provisioning the signaling path comprises a step of selecting an MG adapted to route call control messages to more than one DSCM.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of provisioning the signaling path comprises a step of changing a number translation table in the DSCM to associate the ported number with the signaling path.

14. A method of enabling local number and service feature portability within a telephone service area served by at least two central offices (COs) having respective control modules (CMs), comprising steps of:

- a) decommissioning each of the CMs and installing a distributed switch call manager (DSCM) connected to a broadband transport network (BTN);
- b) provisioning the DSCM to control components of each of the at least two COs by routing control messages through media gateways (MGs) connected to the respective COs; and
- c) porting a directory number served by one of the at least two COs, to a subscriber line served by another of the at least two COs by changing number translation tables in the DSCM used to

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~~direct call control messages to the CO to which the directory number is ported.~~

B) 15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the step of provisioning the DSCM comprises steps of:

a) establishing signaling paths through the BTN between the DSCM and the MGs of the respective COs; and

b) provisioning the DSCM with a number translation table used to select signaling paths through which call control messages are transmitted for ported directory numbers.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least two COs are selected in accordance with an expected demand for local number portability.

17. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein an area in which the local number and service feature portability is enabled is enlarged, comprising steps of:

a) decommissioning another CM in of another Central Office (CO) in the local telephone service area; and

b) provisioning the DSCM to control components of the other CO by routing call control messages through media gateways connected to the other CO.

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